

A Survey of the Old Testament

GENESIS Adam and Eve had three sons. Name them. _____, _____, & _____. Abraham was the father of _____ who was the father of _____ and _____ who was the father of twelve sons. Name three. _____, _____, & _____.

EXODUS Name seven of the ten plagues. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, & _____. Who were Moses' sister and brother? _____ and _____.

LEVITICUS This book is concerned with the cultic laws of the Hebrews. It tells how to sacrifice, what is clean and unclean, how to celebrate the annual day of atonement, etc.

NUMBERS This is a census report and the tales of Israel in the wilderness, wandering about for 40 years.

DEUTERONOMY This is a restating of the law in more contemporary terms. Compare Exodus 20:2-17 to Deut. 5:6-21.

JOSHUA The Israelites crossed the _____ River to get to Canaan. They then destroyed the city of _____ by blowing trumpets. The rest of the book is about the Israelites conquering the Canaanites.

JUDGES Name four judges and try to find out what they did. (One of your four should be a female. Look at Chapt. 4 & 5. 1 _____, 2 _____, 3 _____, and 4 _____.

RUTH Who was Ruth's mother-in-law? _____ Who was Ruth's second husband? _____ Who was her grandson? _____ (Ruth 4:18-22).

I SAMUEL Samuel was a king, prophet, carpenter, priest. (*Circle one.*) Samuel anointed _____ as king and then later anointed _____, the son of Jesse, as king.

II SAMUEL This book is mostly about the reign of King _____.

I KINGS Who was king after David? _____. Who is the great prophet in this book? _____ (He is a biggy so don't forget him.)

II KINGS Who succeed the prophet in I Kings? _____ I and II Kings tells of the division between Israel and Judah and their respective kings. They have got some pretty wild stories. If you think politics in Washington is rough...

I CHRONICLES & II CHRONICLES These two books retell the stories of David and Solomon's reigns as they should have been rather than how they really were. It also tells of the reigns of later kings. At the end of these books the Jews go into exile into _____.

EZRA Ezra returns to _____ to rebuild the temple. He does this during the reign of _____. (Ezra 7:1-6)

NEHEMIAH Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of what city? _____

ESTHER Who does Esther marry? Why is she remembered? By the way, _____ is never mentioned in this book.

JOB This is where Job is tested in a bet between God and the Tempter (devil). Job and God both come out winners.

PSALMS This is the hymnal and prayer book of the Old Testament. The poetry is great! In this book you will find the shortest chapter in the Bible. Which one is it? _____

PROVERBS This is like a Poor Richard's Almanac which is just loaded with wise and fun tidbits for everyday life.

ECCLESIASTES These are the questions a preacher raises about the true meaning of life. It can be depressing but it is interesting.

SONG OF SOLOMON Also known as the Song of Songs, this is quite a love song. Why is this in the Bible?

ISAIAH According to Isaiah 1:1 who is Isaiah and what is this book about? (Amos, Hosea, and Micah were alive when Isaiah was.)

JEREMIAH Read verses 5-8 of Chapter 1. Why doesn't Jeremiah want to be a prophet? _____
He foretells the destruction of Jerusalem in a later part of the book and then lives to see it happen.

LAMENTATIONS These are sad songs about the destruction of Jerusalem which were sung by the Jews who were in Babylon.

EZEKIEL Ezekiel was a prophet to the exiles who tried to cheer up the Jews by telling them that everything will come out in the wash because the LORD God is in control.

DANIEL Daniel was thrown in a pit with _____ by King _____. Why? _____

HOSEA Hosea compared his love for his wife, _____, to God's love for Israel. His contemporaries were of Amos, Isaiah, & Micah.

JOEL is similar to the book of Ezekiel because of the many vision he had. He spoke of the judgment of nations and the coming of a wonderful new day in which God will rule.

AMOS was a _____ in Tekoa. He said, "Let _____ roll down like waters, and _____ like an ever flowing stream (5:24). He was a "Southerner" preaching in the North.

OBADIAH was concerned with the sins of _____. He didn't really prophesy about Israel or Judah. His message was like Joel's.

JONAH This book is about a man who was swallowed by a big _____. It is also about Israel's mission to the world. Can you see both meanings?

MICAH Compare 5:2 with Matthew 2:6. What is Micah talking about? _____ He was very concerned with the poor of his nation. He gave the meaning of true worship in 6:8. What is it? _____
Who were Micah's contemporaries? _____, _____, and _____.

NAHUM reminds us that when nations become evil, they come under God's judgment and do not last. He is sometimes known as a prophet of "hate and vengeance." His contemporaries were Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Jeremiah.

HABAKKUK asks some deep questions. Check 1:13b for his most disturbing one. The answer comes in 2:2-4. What is the questions and it's answer? _____ Chapter 3 is a beautiful song about trust in God. Habakkuk's thinking is a basis for Christianity.

ZEPHANIAH spoke of God's judgment on Judah and all nations. What other prophets were alive in his day? _____

HAGGAI was called a "practical idealist" because he wanted the people to rebuild the temple instead of their houses. Check Ezra 5:1. What other prophet was around in his time? _____

ZECHARIAH preached a message of reconstruction after the return from exile in Babylon just like his contemporary _____.

MALACHI preached just before Ezra and Nehemiah. He was concerned with worship in the new temple. His central theme is fidelity to the covenant with the LORD and its teaching which is the theme of the entire Old Testament.

An Old Testament Timeline

1800	Abraham 1800-1700	
1500	-----	
	The Exodus	1290
	Israelite Conquest	1250 – 1200
	Period of Judges	1200 – 1020
	Samuel and Saul	1020 – 1000
1000	-----	
	David	1000 – 961
	Solomon	961 – 922
	Division of Kingdom	922
	<u>JUDAH</u>	<u>ISRAEL</u>
	Rehoboam	Jeroboam
	Abijah	
	Asa	Nadab
		Baasha
		Elah
		Zimri
		Omri
	Jehoshaphat	Ahab (Elijah 850)
	Jehoram	Ahaziah (Elisha)
	Ahaziah	Jehoram
850	-----	
		Jehu
	Athaliah	
	Joash	Joahaz
	Amaziah	J(eh)oash
	Uzziah	Jeroboam II (Amos 750) (Hosea 745)
		Jechriah
750	-----	
		Shallum
	Jotham (Isaiah 742-700)	Menahem
	Jehoahaz (Ahaz) (Micah 722-701)	Pekahiah
	Invasion of Assyria	Pekah
		Hoshea
	Hezekiah	Fall of Samaria 722-721
700	-----	
	Manasseh	
	Amon	
	Josiah	

(Zephaniah 628 – 622)
(Jeremiah 622 – 587)
Josiah's Reform 621
Jehoahaz II
Jehoiakim (Eliakim)
(Habakkuk 605)

Fall of Assyria

600 -----

Jehoiahchin
First Deportation to Babylonia 597 (Setting for Daniel)
Zedekiah
Fall of Jerusalem 587
Second Deportation
Babylonian Exile
(Ezekiel 593 – 573)

(Second Isaiah 540)

Cyrus II 550 – 530

Fall of Babylon 539

Empire of Persia

JUDAH

Return of Exiles
Rebuilding of Temple 520 – 515
(Haggai) (Zechariah)

500 -----

(Esther 486 – 465)
(Malachi 500 – 450)
Ezra's Mission 458?
Nehemiah Arrives 445
Ezra's Mission 428?

400 -----

Empire of Alexander the Great 336 – 323

Judah Under Egyptian Control

200 -----

Judah Under Syrian Control
Maccabean Revolt 168
Judas
Jonathan (The Book of Daniel Written)
Simon
John Hyrcanus

100 -----

Pompey Captures Jerusalem 63

EMPIRE OF ROME

THE HEBREW BIBLE

Torah

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Prophets

Former Prophets

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1-2 Samuel
1-2 Kings
Lamentations

Latter Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Ezekiel

The Twelve

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Writings

Psalms
Proverbs
Job
Song of Songs
Ecclesiastes
Esther
Daniel
Ezra-Nehemiah
1-2 Chronicles

Twenty-Four Books in the Hebrew Bible (The Twelve is one Book).

Discussion Questions for Session Two

Do you have a favorite book in the Old Testament?

What is the oral tradition?

Can you think of present-day examples of oral tradition?

Compare The Hebrew Bible as listed in Handout #3 with the Table of Contents of the Old Testament in your own Bible.

Are there differences? Similarities?